

R E P O R T

ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE WRECK OF THE STEAMER
"KRECHET", BELONGING TO THE STATE SEA-SHIPING
AGENCY, IN THE HARBOR OF HONG KONG

The Military Prosecution Office of the Pacific Ocean Area has established by investigation following:

That at the end of August, 1941, the ship "Krechet" arrived at the harbor of Hong Kong to be put under recondition. On December 8, 1941, the recondition of the ship was interrupted because of the opening of hostilities between Japan and USA and Great Britain.

To avoid the damaging of the ship during artillery bombardments of the docks by the Japanese forces, the ship "Krechet" was led off to the roadstead state flag of the Soviet Union being on the stern, and other flags painted on her deck and boards. There were no other ships belonging to any other country on the roadstead.

Late in the afternoon of December 14, 1941, artillery bombardment of the ship "Krechet" was began from the Koulun Island, occupied by the Japanese.

The first shells fell on the stern and the bow. Then an incendiary shell hit one of the deck-cabins, and fire broke out on the ship. After this the ship was several times directly hit by explosive and incendiary shells, which damaged the hull and the engine-room. The ship was ablaze and in about two hours sank.

The witnesses: the captain of the ship "Krechet" Bazhanov, the senior radio-operator of the ship Pokrytiuk, the mechanic of the ship "Svirstroy" Iordansky and others estimated that there were 34 shells discharged by the Japanese armed forces at the ship "Krechet" from the distance of less than half a mile.

On leaving the ship on fire, the crew consisting of 10 men got into a boat and made for Hong Kong. But a gun shot was made at the boat from the Japanese side, and the boat was forced to sail in the direction of the Koulun Island.

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On leaving the ship on fire, the crew consisting of 10 men got into a boat and made for Hong Kong. But a gun shot was made at the boat from the Japanese side, and the boat was forced to sail in the direction of the Koulun Island.

After Hong Kong was occupied, the captain of the ship "Krechet", the representative of the Commercial Mission Prekhorov and the employee of the "Exportkhleb" Ageev were summoned by the military authorities to negotiate on the matter of the wreck of the ship "Krechet".

During the talk which lasted about 3 hours, the representative of the Japanese command repeatedly threatening with responsibility for giving false testimony endeavoured to prove that the ship "Krechet" could not have been fired at by the Japanese, and tried with all means to make them testify that it was the English who had fired at the ship.

During the months that the crew stayed in Hong Kong they were constantly subjected to indignities by the Japanese, who beat them, robbed them of their personal things, money in foreign currency and food, and as a result of it the crew of the ship "Krechet" were half starving and suffered from inanition and various diseases.

The losses sustained by the state amounted to 17,700,000 rubles, which was the cost of the ship.

Military Prosecutor of the Pacific Ocean Area,

Lieutenant-Colonel of the Judicial Corps

Shlychkov

20.III.46 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENT

I, M. Gildenblat, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Russian and English languages: and the above is a correct and true translation of the indicated Document.

Signature:/s/ M. Gildenblat

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RETURN 報 告 TO ROOM 361

2315-1

香港港内ニ於ケル極東國營海運會社所有船

「クレチエト」號沈没ニ關スル件。

太平洋地區軍事檢察團ノ調査ニヨリ決定ヲ見タル
事項左ノ如シ。

一九四一年（昭和十六年）八月末商船「クレチエ
ト」號ハ修理ヲ受ケルタメ香港港ニ入港シタ。

日本ノ米國及ビ英國ニ對スル戰鬭行動開始ノ結果
船ノ修理ハ一九四一年（昭和十六年）十二月八日
ニ中絶サレタ。

日本軍側ヨリノ「ドック」砲撃ニ際シ發生スベキ
船ノ破損ヲ回避スル爲「クレチエト」號ハ碇泊地
ニ移動シ、其ノ際船尾ニ「ソヴァイエト」聯邦ノ國
旗ヲ掲ゲ、兩舷及ビ甲板ニモ同様ニ國旗ヲ書イタ。
碇泊地ニハ他ノ孰レノ國ノ船舶モ無カツタ。

一九四一年（昭和十六年）十二月十四日ノ夕刻ニ
至リ日本軍占領下ノ九龍側カラ「クレチエト」號
ニ對シ砲撃ガ開始サレタ。

始メ數彈ガ船首及ビ船尾ニ落下シタ。次イテ燒夷
彈ガ上部構造ニ落下シタ、メ、船上ニ火災ガ發生
シタ。續イテ船ハ船体及ビ機關部ニ損傷ヲ受ヘル
コト、ナツタ地震彈、燒夷彈ノ數發ノ直撃彈ヲ受
ケタ。船ハ火焰ニ包マレ、約二時間後ニ沈没シタ。

2315-2

「クレチエト」號船長「バジヤノフ」、同號上級
無電士「ボクルイテユーク」、シザイリストロイ」
號機師士「イヨルタンスキー」等目撃者ノ計算ス
ルトコロニ依レバ、日本軍ハ「クレチエト」號ヲ
目標ニ〇、五「マイル」以内ノ距離ニ三十四發發
砲シタト。

乗組員十名ハ、船上スル本船ヲ見棄テ、搭載「ボ
ート」ニ乗り、香港側ニ向ツタガ、其時又シテモ
「ボート」ハ日本側カラ砲撃ヲ受ケタガタメ、止
ムナク九龍側ニ向フコト、ナツタ。

日本軍ノ香港占領直後「クレチエト」號船長「バ
ジヤノフ」、通商代表部代表「フホロフ」、食糧輸出
組合職員「アゲーエフ」ハ「クレチエト」號沈没
ニ關スル會談ノタメ軍當局ニ召喚サレタ。

約三時間ニ亘ル會談中、日本軍統帥部代表ハ繰返
シ威嚇シテ、贖身ノ證言ニ對スル責任ガアルトナ
シ、「クレチエト」號ハ日本側ノ砲撃ヲ受ケル筈
ガナイト證明シヨウトシ、又同船ハ英國軍ダケニ
砲撃サレタノダト云フ證言ヲ得ヨウトアラユル方
法ヲ用ヒテ努力シタ。

數ヶ月ニ亘ル香港滯在中、乗組員ハ日本軍ニ種々
ト嘲弄サレ、毆打サレ、私物、外國貨幣及ビ食料
ヲ掠奪サレテ、「クレチエト」號ノ乗組員ハ食フ

2315-3

ヤ食ハズテ生活シ、タメニ衰弱シテ、種々ノ疾病
ヲ發生シタ。

國家ニ與ヘタ損害ハ一千七百七十萬「ルーブル」
デアルガ、コノ額ハ他ノ償額デアル

太平洋地區軍事檢察官

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法務中佐 「シユルイテコフ」

書類第二三一五號

證

2315-4

余中山登ハ余ガ日本語及ビ露西亞語ニ精通セル
者ナルコト並ニ露西亞語原文及ビ日本語原文ヲ對
照ノ上右ハ本書類ヲ真贋ニ且正確ニ辨認セルモノ
ナルヲ確證セルコトヲ茲ニ證ス

昭和二十一年九月六日

中山登